

Message Text

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11
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 JUSE-00

DODE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-15 /127 W

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R 030615Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6501

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TH, XC, XE, UN AS

SUBJECT: AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN NARCOTIC
DRUGS

REF: STATE 193909

1. EMBASSY INFORMED LATE AFTERNOON OCT 2 BY UNDP
RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE YACOUNB JOURY THAT GON SPOKES-
MAN HAD CALLED TO TELL HIM THAT GON COULD NOT GIVE
FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO WISH OF CND STUDY GROUP TO
VISIT NEPAL OCT 11-14 AS TIMING IS INAPPROPRIATE.

2. DATES PROPOSED FOR VISIT ARE UNFORTUNATE SINCE
MAJOR NEPALESE DESAIN HOLIDAYS BEGIN OCT 3 AND GOVERN-
MENT FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES IS CLOSED FOR FOLLOW-
ING TWO WEEKS. EMBASSY HAD, HOWEVER, MADE TWO
APPROACHES TO GON, FOLLOWING RECEIPT REFTTEL, IN
ATTEMPT ELICIT FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO PROPOSED CND
STUDY TOUR. ON OCT 2 AMBASSADOR CARGO RAISED SUBJECT
DURING DISCUSSION WITH FONSEC KHATRI WHO INDICATED
HIS BELIEF THAT GON WOULD BE WILLING RECEIVE STUDY
GROUP, BUT THAT THE PROPOSED VISIT HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY
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COME TO HIS ATTENTION. IN SPITE OF KING'S VISIT TO

INDIA AT SAME TIME, AN APPROPRIATE PROGRAM COULD BE WORKED OUT FOR THE AD HOC COMMITTEE, HE SAID. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT WE WERE SUPPORTING UN INITIATIVE AND THAT WE WISHED TO CONVEY TO GON OUR INTEREST IN SEEING GON AGREE TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE. AMBASSADOR SAID HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF FONSEC WOULD MAKE INQUIRIES AS TO WHERE SITUATION STOOD IN GON.

3. EARLIER APPROACH WAS MADE ON OCT 1 BY EMBASSY OFFICER TO JOINT SECRETARY SHARDUL RANA. RANA SAID HE WAS AWARE OF COMMITTEE'S WISH TO VISIT NEPAL, THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS IN FAVOR OF AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE, BUT THAT PROBLEM RESIDED IN OTHER MINISTRIES. HE INDICATED IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT DO ANYTHING NOW IN VIEW OF DESAIN HOLIDAYS. AT OUR URGING, HOWEVER, HE PROMISED TO TRY TO GET APPROVAL BEFORE HOLIDAYS BUT WAS NOT HOPEFUL OF SUCCESS.

4. COMMENT: MISSION AGREES THAT DESAIN HOLIDAYS HAVE BEEN FACTORS IN FAILURE TO DATE TO OBTAIN FAVORABLE GON RESPONSE. WE ALSO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT DELAY IS SYMPTOM OF INCREASING SENSITIVITY OF NARCOTICS ISSUE WITHIN GON. THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT BUT THAT THERE IS OPPOSITION TO MOVING AHEAD ON NARCOTICS CONTROLS WITHIN SOME MINISTRIES, SUCH AS AGRICULTURE, WHERE THERE MAY BE VESTED INTERESTS IN CONTINUING GANJA CULTIVATION. ACTION ON NARCOTICS ISSUES THEREFORE REQUIRES EXTREMELY STRONG LEADERSHIP WITHIN GON. IN ABSENCE OF SEC OF FINANCE B. B. PRADHAN, WHO WAS ATTENDING IMF MEETINGS AND WHO SERVES AS UN CHANNEL TO GON, UN INITIATIVE HAS NOT RECEIVED SUPPORT WITHIN GON. WE WILL ATTEMPT PERSUALDE MIN OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF NEED TO TAKE MORE ACTIVE ROLE, BASED ON IMPORTANCE FROM FOREIGN RELATIONS VIEWPOINT OF FAVORABLE RESPONSE FROM NEPAL. WITH SUPPORT FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY AND WITH RETURN OF FIN SECRETARY PRADHAN AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE FROM GON MAY BE POSSIBLE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS.

CARGO

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